

Module 1: Why Care About Health in the Workplace?

Handout A: Scripts for Teachers

Susan's Story

Susan, a Head Start family service worker/classroom aide, arrived at work this morning with a bad cold. She has two children at home with the same symptoms. Her three-year-old was up most of the night with a cough. Susan feels she should be home with her children, but she knows that the other family service worker is attending a funeral today. Her mother is at Susan's house taking care of the children—Susan got up at 5 a.m. to bring her mother across town to her house.

Lei-Chun's Story

Lei-Chun is a young Head Start teacher's aide. She has lived in this country for only two years, and finds the culture challenging but interesting. She wants to be as "American" as possible. However, her parents find many things wrong with American culture and want Lei-Chun to behave as a proper girl from her home country. Over the weekend, Lei-Chun argued fiercely with her parents about her friends. Just last night, she told her parents that she is planning to move out of the family home to live with her boyfriend, and that made them angry. Lei-Chun also worries about the financial implications of setting up a household on two small salaries.

Matthew's Story

Matthew is the head teacher in this Head Start classroom. He enjoys his work and does his best to prepare the children for their futures. He lives only three blocks from the Head Start Center, and is very active in community activities. His neighbors recently gained control of some property that has been neglected for years—overgrown with weeds and a site for drug dealing and other unsavory activity. This property is now going to become a community garden, but the neighbors must work quickly to transform it, build fences, and be sure that no one trashes it. Matthew spent all weekend putting up fences, digging holes, planting fruit trees, and supervising neighborhood teenagers on the construction crew. His back is killing him!

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